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TITLE: THERMAL HEAD  
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ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To prevent a molten ink from sticking or adhering to the surface of a thermal head and prevent the head from being damaged by friction with an ink ribbon, by covering the surface of the head with a coated film which is water-repellent, is highly heat-resistant and has a low coefficient of friction, such as a fluororesin film.

CONSTITUTION: A thermal head 21 comprises opposed pairs of conductive electrodes 23A, 23A'... on an insulating substrate 22. Further, a heat-accumulating layer 24 and a heating layer 25 are provided, an SiO<SB>2</SB> film serving as an anti-oxidation film for the heating layer 25 is provided as a protective layer 26 on the substrate 22 by vapor deposition or the like, and a water-repellent organic film 27 consisting of tetrafluoroethylene is provided thereon as a surface protective layer. The melting point of tetrafluoroethylene is 430&deg;C while the melting point of a heat-fusible ink is 60&sim;120&deg;C. Therefore, when the surface of the head is covered by the coated film of tetrafluoroethylene and the temperature of the head is raised, there is no possibility that the coated film is softened to damage the functions of the head.

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